GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2241
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001
BEEDI WORKERS
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Beedi workers with particular reference to child and women workers separately, State-wise;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to assess the ill effects of tobacco on the workers in general and child and woman workers in particular;

(c) if so, the incidence of chest, bronchial and other ailments among Beedi workers with particular reference to child and woman workers; and

(d) the steps taken to cure the ailments among the workers and the preventive measures taken to avoid ailments?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a): As per latest estimates there are about 44.11 lakh beedi workers in the country. A statement showing the State-wise number of beedi workers is enclosed at ANNEXURE-I.The Labour Bureau (Ministry of Labour) has conducted a sample survey on the working and living conditions of the workers in the beedi industry in 1995. As per conclusions of this survey, 65.9 percent women workers and one percent children are engaged in beedi making.

(b) to (d) The opinion of various organizations such as DGFASLI, Ministry of Health and National Institute of Occupational Health is that TB is not an occupational disease. However, the findings of a study conducted by the Labour Bureau showing prevalence of chronic diseases including chest ailments amongst the Beedi workers is enclosed at ANNEXURE-II.
The Labour Welfare Organisation isrunning 4 Hospitals and 210 dispensaries under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund to cater to the needs of the beedi workers and their dependants.